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Message Text

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62
ORIGIN EUR-25

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S/S - SEFRY
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O 150023Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MARCH 14 REMARKS TO PRESS ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

EXCERPTS OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOW:

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I WANTED TO COME IN FOR A FEW MINUTES. I'M GOING TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK.

BUT I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT DURING THIS WEEK I HAVE DONE MORE FOR EUROPEAN UNIFICATION THAN ANY MAN SINCE JEAN MONNET. (LAUGHTER)

AND SO I THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO PUT SOME MATTERS INTO PERSPECTIVE.

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IN PARTICULAR, ONE REMARK OF MINE THAT HAS BEEN WIDELY

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REPORTED THAT CAST, OR SEEMED TO CAST, REFLECTION ON THE LEGITIMACY OF EXISTING EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

NOW, AS YOU BY NOW HAVE ALL LEARNED, I WENT INTO THIS MEETING WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL WIVES, NOT REALIZING THAT IT WAS COVERED BY THE PRESS, AND ALL OF MY DISASTERS SEEMED TO HAVE OCCURRED WHEN HERE WAS A COMBINATION OF PRESS AND LADIES. (LAUGHTER)

SO I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THIS REMARK WAS MADE WAS PROPERLY EXPLAINED.

THIS REMARK WAS NOT MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF WHATEVER DIFFICULTIES EXIST AT THIS MOMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE. THE REMARK WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF EXPLAINING THE IMPERATIVE NECESSITY OF CARRYING OUT A POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN THE AGE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; AND THE POINT THAT I ATTEMPTED TO MAKE, BEFORE MY EXUBERANCE CARRIED ME AWAY, WAS THAT WHEN THERE WAS A CERTAIN SCALE OF DEVASTATION, THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN VICTOR AND DEFEATED WOULD BECOME MEANINGLESS AND THE SHOCK TO SOCIETIES WOULD BE SO GREAT THAT NO COUNTRY THAT ENTERED SUCH A WAR WOULD EVER RECOVER. AND IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT I ATTEMPTED TO SAY, ANYWAY, THAT NO GOVERNMENT THAT ENTERED WORLD WAR I RECOVERED ITS LEGITIMACY AS A RESULT OF THOSE DEVASTATIONS.

IT WAS NOT INTENDED AS A REFLECTION ON EXISTING GOVERNMENTS, OR A COMMENTARY ON THE PRESENT STATE OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS; AND IT WAS SAID IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PART OF THE REMARK.

IN ANY EVENT, I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE REMARKS LEND THEMSELVES TO THE INTERPRETATION THAT WAS GIVEN, I REGRET THEM AND I FEEL THEY MADE NO GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ATLANTIC DIALOGUE.

NOW, WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE THAT WE MUST DISTINGUISH THE ISSUE OF PERSONALITIES FROM THE ISSUES THAT EXIST. THERE IS NO PERSONAL DISPUTE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THIS UNCLASSIFIED

ADMINISTRATION AND EUROPEAN LEADERS. THE DIFFICULTIES THAT HAVE ARISEN HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH PERSONAL PIQUE OR BAD PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN OFFICIALS.

THE ISSUE IS WHETHER ATLANTIC RELATIONS SHOULD BE CONCEIVED COOPERATIVELY OR COMPETITIVELY -- WHETHER A EUROPEAN IDENTITY CAN BE DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION

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WITH THE UNITED STATES OR MUST BE DEVELOPED INHERENTLY IN OPPOSITION OR SEPARATION FROM THE UNITED STATES.

THOSE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT.

ON OUR SIDE, WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNITY OF THE WEST HAS BEEN THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. IT WILL REMAIN THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY AND ALL OUR DISPUTES WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE INTENTION OF RESOLVING THEM -- WITH THAT OBJECTIVE FOREMOST IN OUR MIND.

SO I JUST THOUGHT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SEPARATE THE INCIDENTAL FROM THE FUNDAMENTAL, AND I WILL BE HAVING A PRESS CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK IN WHICH WE CAN DISCUSS THESE THINGS MORE FULLY. KISSINGER

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